

tested for defects using an appropriate NDE method at every annual inspection. Where visual inspection does not disclose any defects, an additional NDE testing method shall be employed. Suitable means for securing the drawbar pins in place shall be provided. Inverted drawbar pins shall be held in place by plate or stirrup.

(b) *Safety bars and chains generally.* One or more safety bar(s) or two or more safety chains shall be provided between the steam locomotive and tender. The combined strength of the safety chains or safety bar(s) and their fastenings shall be not less than 50 percent of the strength of the drawbar and its connections. These shall be maintained in safe and suitable condition for service, and inspected at the same time draw gear is inspected.

(c) *Minimum length of safety chains or bars.* Safety chains or safety bar(s) shall be of the minimum length consistent with the curvature of the railroad on which the steam locomotive is operated.

(d) *Lost motion.* Lost motion between steam locomotives and tenders not equipped with spring buffers shall be kept to a minimum and shall not exceed ½ inch.

(e) *Spring buffers.* When spring buffers are used between steam locomotives and tenders the spring shall be applied with not less than ¾ inch compression, and shall at all times be under sufficient compression to keep the chafing faces in contact.

§ 230.91 Chafing irons.

Chafing irons that permit proper curving shall be securely attached to the steam locomotive and tender, and shall be maintained to permit lateral and vertical movement.

§ 230.92 Draw gear and draft systems.

Couplers, draft gear and attachments on steam locomotives and tenders shall be securely fastened, and maintained in safe and suitable condition for service.

DRIVING GEAR

§ 230.93 Pistons and piston rods.

(a) *Maintenance and testing.* Pistons and piston rods shall be maintained in safe and suitable condition for service.

Piston rods shall be inspected for cracks each time they are removed, and shall be renewed if found defective.

(b) *Fasteners.* Fasteners (keys, nuts, etc.) shall be kept tight and shall have some means to prevent them from loosening or falling out of place.

§ 230.94 Crossheads.

Crossheads shall be maintained in a safe and suitable condition for service, with not more than ¼ inch vertical or ⅝ inch lateral clearance between crossheads and guides.

§ 230.95 Guides.

Guides shall be securely fastened and maintained in a safe and suitable condition for service.

§ 230.96 Main, side, and valve motion rods.

(a) *General.* Main, side or valve motion rods developing cracks or becoming otherwise defective shall be removed from service immediately and repaired or renewed.

(b) *Repairs.* Repairs, and welding of main, side or valve motion rods shall be made in accordance with an accepted national standard. The steam locomotive owner and/or operator shall submit a written request for approval to the FRA Regional Administrator prior to welding defective main rods, side rods, and valve gear components.

(c) *Bearings and bushings.* Bearings and bushings shall so fit the rods as to be in a safe and suitable condition for service, and means shall be provided to prevent bushings from turning in the rod. Straps shall fit and be securely bolted to rods. Floating bushings need not be provided with means to prevent bushings from turning.

(d) *Side motion of rods.* The total amount of side motion of each rod on its crank pin shall not exceed ¼ inch.

(e) *Oil and grease cups.* Oil and grease cups shall be securely attached to rods, and grease cup plugs shall be equipped with a suitable fastening that will prevent them from being ejected.

(f) *Main rod bearings.* The bore of main rod bearings shall not exceed pin diameters more than ⅜ inch at front or back end. The total lost motion at both ends shall not exceed ⅝ inch.